Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF No.15 - January 2000

Child-to-Child Project

A radical approach to involving children in health promotion is being tried out in south London with funding from the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone.

The Child-to-Child approach to health promotion is founded on two core ideas. Firstly, that children and young people are able to play a central and positive role in improving the health of others. Secondly, that the process of empowering children and young people to be involved in improving the health of others raises their own knowledge and self-belief and helps to develop further their ability to care and be responsible for others.

Child-to-Child projects can be found in over 70 countries around the world, mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In many of these countries, Child-to-Child work has become a mainstream approach to health promotion and is now an accepted way for health, education and the voluntary sector to work together. It has been used to address issues such as the prevention of malaria, the importance of drinking clean water and the reduction of accidents in the home.

The approach has, however, been used very little in the UK . The LSL Child-to-Child project has been funded for three years to test the approach and assess its effect with children and young people across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham.

Community Health South London NHS Trust have employed Sara Gibbs as the project worker. She will be developing a number of children-led projects in local schools, youth clubs and community settings. The aim is to support 9 to 12 year olds to become involved in improving the health of their communities.

Children will be supported to identify and prioritise health issues that are of importance to them, and to find out more about those issues that they feel are in need of most urgent attention. Using their research as a springboard they will design projects which may involve working, for instance, with peer groups, elderly people, teachers, parents, carers, youth workers, tenants associations and local authority members.

The projects will utilise a variety of approaches to address those health needs prioritised and this may include peer-based work and community advocacy using, for instance, song, dance, theatre, leafleting, poster campaigns and presentations at public meetings.

Southwark voluntary organisations Camberwell After School Project and Groundwork Southwark are both taking part in the pilot child-to-child projects, the latter in Bellenden Primary School with the support of the Bellenden Renewal Area Initiative and Southwark Housing. Southwark Children and Families Alliance are represented on the project's advisory group.

Part of the project function is to disseminate information amongst, and begin training for, teachers, youth workers and health professionals about the Child-to-Child approach to health promotion with a view to it becoming incorporated into mainstream provision.

For further information, contact Sara Gibbs, Child to Child Project Worker, Sheldon Child Development Centre, St. Giles Road, SE5 7RN (Tel: 0171 771 3423, Fax: 0171 771 3410, e-mail: Sara.Gibbs@chsltr.sthames.nhs.uk

Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF

Children's Participation in Voluntary Organisations

24 February 2000
at Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Road, SE5

trainers: Bharti Mepani and Maddy Lewis, Save the Children Fund.

This free one day training course aims to enable participants to increase their understanding of children's participation, helping them to plan towards involving children in their organisations.

To book a place contact SCCF Training on 0171 252 5291.

News

Changes at King's

King's College Hospital in Denmark Hill is embarking on a £90 million development programme. At the heart of the programme is the building of a new six-storey Bessemer Wing. Due to open in December 2002, it will house all women's services and most outpatients' clinics. Changes in children's services over the next six months will include the opening of a new paediatric observation ward in accident and emergency (April 2000) and the moving of the paediatric liver hostel from Bavent Road to 1-6 Cutcombe Road.

A brochure setting out the changes is available from King's Healthcare NHS Trust Corporate Communications (020 7346 3257) or visit the website: www.kingshealth.com

Bermondsey/Rotherhithe Healthy Living Centre

Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Development Partnership is considering developing a bid for a Healthy Living Centre. Local issues already identified include road safety (including safe routes to school), family literacy, nutrition and parenting. If your organisation is interested in helping develop solutions to these and other local issues contact Ian Owers at Time and Talents (tel. 020 7231 7845).

Children's Day at the Dome

On 29 February 2000 organisations working with children in need are being offered a special day at the Millennium Dome, with free entry for children aged 5 to 15 and adult supervisors. Tickets are limited and must be booked in advance from Children's Promise Day, 110 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1W 9SB, tel. 020 7808 8290, fax. 020 7808 8229, e-mail childrens.promise@newmill.co.uk

Early Years & Childcare News

Childcare Information Service

Southwark Childcare Information Service (CIS) is now up and running, enabling parents and others to access up to date information about childcare in their area by phone. The CIS can provide information on different kinds of childcare (including childminders, pre-schools, nurseries and after school clubs), with details of vacancies, costs, activities, opening times, staff qualifications and so on.

Southwark Childcare Information Service
020 7525 5189

Southwark CIS is also available online as part of the National Childcare Link: www.childcarelink.gov.uk

Start Here! Workshops

Southwark Childcare First (the Early Years and Childcare Partnership) is running a series of workshops with the Daycare Trust for people who want to find out more about setting up new childcare provision in Southwark. The dates are as follows:

- Thursday 3 February 2000, 2:00 - 4:00 pm or 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Southwark Education Resource Centre, Cator Street, SE15;
- Tuesday 7 March 2000, 10.00 - 12 noon or 1.00 - 3.00 pm at Beormund Community Centre, SE1;
- Thursday 16 March 2000, 10.00 - 12 noon or 1.00 - 3.00 pm at Dulwich Library, SE22.

To book a place contact Emmanuella Ilomuanya, Southwark Childcare Development Manager on 0171 739 2866.

Childcare Start-Up Course

The Play Training Project is again running its Childcare Business Start-Up Course for people who want to set up new childcare provision. The course covers all aspects including legal requirements, sound business planning and funding. It runs on Wednesday evening for nine weeks from 9th February. Details from Michelle St John at PTP, tel/fax 020 7703 4163.

Southwark Childcare First Meeting

The next meeting of Southwark Childcare First (the Early Years and Childcare Partnership) will take place from 10.00 am to 12:30 pm on Monday 21 February 2000 at Southwark Education Resource Centre, Cator Street, SE15. All those with an interest in childcare are welcome to attend.

Funding News

Leaders for London Millennium Awards

Southwark is one of six London boroughs covered by the £1.2 million Leaders for London Millennium Awards scheme, funded by the Millennium Commission and run by Peabody Trust. Awards averaging £2000 will be available until December 2000 for projects helping young people which focus on one, or more, of the following: education, race and exclusion; health and culture.

The money could be used towards such things as skills training, buying equipment, travel expenses, publicity expenses (such as poster and leaflets) or office costs. For an application form call the Millennium Awards Team at Peabody on 0171 928 7811.

Southwark World Village Millennium Festival

Southwark Council is organising a major free multicultural music, arts and dance festival on Sunday 16th July 2000 in Burgess Park. If you are interested in participating contact the Events Officer, Linda Small on 020 7525 1594. A number of small grants of up to £500 will be available to groups participating (application closing date 28 February 2000).

New Opportunities Fund

Two Southwark voluntary organisations were successful in the latest round of the National Lottery Charities Board New Opportunities Fund, announced in December 1999.

Camberwell After School Project received £20,300 from the Out of School Childcare Programme to create 30 after school places for children aged 3-11 at St Joseph's Roman Catholic School.

St. Michael Associates received £5,655 from the Out of School Learning Programme for a project providing structured homework support to pupils at risk of educational failure.

NOF Application Packs are available from 0845 6040555. Support with completing NOF Out of School Childcare applications is available from Emmanuella Ilomuanya, Southwark Childcare Development Manager on 0171 739 2866.

Sure Start

After some delay, the national Sure Start Unit has finally given the go ahead for the Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus Delivery Plan, with a grant of over £3 million over the next 3 years. A range of new services to support families with children under 4 are being developed in the Aylesbury Estate and surrounding area, many of them by local voluntary organisations.

Kate Miranda has now come into post as the new Programme Director for Sure Start Southwark (tel. 0207 771 3978).

Social Services

Quality Protects

Southwark Social Services is finalising its Quality Protects Management Action Plan (MAP) for submission to the Department of Health at the end of January 2000. Quality Protects Special Grant Funding will be allocated to Southwark on the basis of what is included in the MAP. The draft Plan sets out a number of proposals for developing social services to children and families, including:

- increasing funding for family-based respite services for children with disabilities;
- a resource to harmonize registration criteria between the different health, education and social services registers for children with disabilities and special needs;
- a new specialist West African resource to promote foster caring in this community in response to the growing number of African children in the care system;
- extended support to children and families in child protection cases where there is a mental health issue;
- independent advocacy surgeries for children in residential units.

Any comments or enquiries should be directed to Andrew Downing, Quality Protects Manager, 020 7525 3677.

New Contracts Officers

The post of children's contracts officer at Southwark Social Services has been filled as a job share between Caroline Armstrong and Laura Tribble. They will be contacting all Social Services-funded voluntary organisations shortly to clarify future funding arrangements. Caroline and Laura can be contaced on 020 7525 3937.

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm,
Thurs. 27th January 2000,
Scott Hall, Cambridge House
131 Camberwell Rd, SE5

The Children's Voluntary Sector in the 21st Century:
- what do we want to achieve for children?

Early Years & Childcare Development Plan - Southwark childcare priorities for 2000/2001

Quality Protects - new service developments in children's social services.

A Play Association for Southwark?

New funding opportunities for children's organisations

plus latest news on Sure Start, Health Action Zone and other initiatives

All voluntary organisations working with children welcome. Please contact Neil Orr (contact details on this page) to confirm if you will be attending.

Future Meeting dates

The dates of Southwark Children and Families Alliance meetings for 2000 have been set as follows:

Thursday 27 January

Wednesday 22 March

Tuesday 23 May

Wednesday 12 July

Wednesday 20 September

Wednesday 22 November

All meetings will run from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Please contact Neil Orr if there are any issues you would like to raise at Alliance meetings.

Alliance Aims

Southwark Children and Families Alliance was established by Southwark Community Care Forum in 1998. It brings together local voluntary organisations in order to promote the rights and interests of children and families in Southwark. It aims to:

- advocate for high-quality child and family-centred services for children and families in Southwark, informed by best practice and research;
- promote the informed involvement of the voluntary sector in the strategic planning of services for children and families;
- promote partnership between voluntary organisations and statutory agencies working with children and families;
- support and develop the capacity of voluntary organisations to provide quality services and to act as advocates and campaigners for children and families;
- promote the participation of children, parents and carers in the planning, development and delivery of services.
- develop an Alliance representative of the range of voluntary organisations working with children and families in Southwark.

While the Alliance works to promote the interests of all children, aged 0-18, its primary focus is on those children who have additional needs to their peers because of factors including relative deprivation, social exclusion, health or development problems, disabilities, caring responsibilities, involvement in the criminal justice system, or risk of significant harm.

Children in Southwark

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website: www.southwark-children.freeserve.co.uk

Children & Families Policy Officer: Neil Orr

Bringing together voluntary organisations to promote the rights and interests of children in Southwark

NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD

Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF No.16 - February 2000

New century, new start?

At its first meeting of the new century on 27 January, Southwark Children and Families Alliance took the opportunity to reflect on where the voluntary sector is going and what we want to achieve for children. Neil Gordon-Orr introduced the discussion:

For many, the Millennium celebrations created a sense of a new beginning and new possibilities. This was encapsulated in the Millennimum statue of a mother and child at Bernie Spain Gardens on the South Bank, her dress made up of the wishes of children from local schools.

At three minutes past midnight, Southwark's first baby of the Millennium was born in Camberwell. Will baby Isio Emumejakpor and those who come after her really grow up in a better world for children?

The first few weeks of the century have not been encouraging, with the local press full of the tragically usual stories of abuse and violence: a 17 year old stabbed to death in Camberwell, a Southwark man jailed for sexually abusing an 8 year old boy and another in court for allegedly raping a 14 year old girl, six children waiting for their father missing presumed murdered in the Old Kent Road, racist attacks in Bermondsey... all of this just the tip of an iceberg of deprivation and lost opportunities.

Attempting to change such conditions of life has always been part of the mission of voluntary organisations, whether our origins lie in nineteenth century philanthropy or 1970s community activism.

There is a view that the voluntary sector is in danger of drifting away from this broader vision to just becoming service providers on behalf of local and national government, meeting important needs but losing sight of changing the social circumstances that create many of these needs.

Voluntary organisations have a tendency to expand to provide more services when the opportunity arises, but more services might not always be the answer. For instance in Southwark large numbers of parents work shifts which compromise family life, and sometimes, the safety of children left alone while parents work. Is the answer to provide more services, such as overnight childcare, or should we be asking more fundamental questions about work patterns? Should the voluntary sector be arguing for governments to take into account the impact on family life of encouraging a flexible shift-working labour force?

As we provide more and more structured activities for children from early morning until bedtime are we colonising the last spaces of autonomy for children, denying them the opportunity to develop their experience, skills and knowledge through their own efforts?

These are some of the fundamental questions for the children's voluntary sector in the 21st century.

Those at the meeting were then invited to come up with a New Year Wish List setting out what they would like to achieve for children, regardless of current political and funding priorities. The list included:

- 'no more children living in poverty';
- 'suitable housing for all';
- 'for children to be able to play safely and without always being supervised by adults';
- 'green streets or home zones which are safe, attractive and seriously reverse 'indoor culture' and the fear of outdoors';
- 'in education, that all children are allowed to be themselves, using their skills and abilities. Not pushing all children down the one route';
- 'more childcare services so that young families can have more time to be able to study';
- 'community development that supports children and their families to develop strategies for developing creative, supportive family life and communities';
- 'that parents addicted to drugs and their families may be given the opportunity to work through their problems as a family in a secure environment';
- 'my wish is that with contact issues, with all their complexity, the needs of children are put first';
- 'a school in Southwark for children with autism which also provides respite for children with disabilities';
- 'the right of children to keep good contact with parents in prison should be recognised, with visits, letters and phone contact facilitated';
- 'an environment that encourages children to voice their opinions. Adults to take note of what children say and act on it'.

Making some of these wishes come true is the major challenge facing the voluntary sector and our partner agencies.

Project News

SPACES

Southwark Parent and Child Education Scheme (SPACES) is a new Southwark Black Women's Centre initiative funded by Joint Finance. The project recognises that black children are exposed to a substantially higher risk of being excluded from schools. Our aim is to work with parents and schools in Southwark to take preventative as well as remedial measures to decrease the level of exclusions of black children, and to provide support for both parents and child to re-establish the child into the educational system. Our key areas are:

- Education - to work with children with emotional and behavioural difficulties;
- Family Support - to empower parents with the skills required to support their child and school through difficult times, and improve the relationship between parent and child;
- Mentoring - to train volunteers to act as named persons, advocates, mediators and befrienders;
- Parenting skills - to establish parental support groups offering weekly advocacy and counselling sessions.

We are committed to working in partnership with not just parents and carers but schools, to make sure the child achieves to the best of his/her abilities. Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact us.

Doreen Johnson, African-Caribbean Adviser
Nimo Mohamed, Somali Adviser

SPACES, Southwark Black Women's Centre,
76 Elstead Street, SE17 1QG
(tel. 020 7708 1643).

Vietnamese Family Support

Ha N. Ta is the new Vietnamese Family Support Worker at Southwark Vietnamese Refugee Association. Her role is to offer advice and support to Vietnamese young people and their parents in relation to health, education and social services.

For further information contact: Southwark Vietnamese Refugee Association, Bellenden Old School, Bellenden Road, SE15 4DG (tel. 020 7732 6114), Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 10.30 am - 4.30 pm.

Funding

Neighbourhood Support Fund

The Neighbourhood Support Fund has been set up to support community-based projects working with young people not involved in education, training or employment, or who are in danger of dropping out of education or training. The programme is aimed at 13 to 19 year olds, with special attention to 16 and 17 year olds.

£155,595 has been allocated to Southwark, with local voluntary organisations being invited to develop bids in the region of £20,000 per year over 3 years.

Projects will be expected to engage young people in activities which build their self-confidence and reconnect them with their communities. Examples could include volunteering action; health awareness projects; and activities in the arts, sports and multimedia.

The programme is being managed nationally by the Community Development Foundation and the Community Education Development Centre. Locally the lead agency is SAVO (Southwark Action for Voluntary Organisations) who will be responsible for selecting projects to fund and monitoring them.

To find out more attend the workshop on Thursday 24 February 2000, 10-11.30 at Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Road, SE5 or contact SAVO on 020 7730 8733.

Trust for London/City Parochial

Southwark Community Care Forum held a Meet the Funders session last month with Ann Curno of Trust for London and City Parochial Foundation.

Trust for London provides grants of up to £10,000 a year to small community organisations (less than two full-time paid staff). Its current priorities include self-help groups (including young people); supplementary and mother tongue schools; work with people with disabilities; refugees and migrant groups.

City Parochial Foundation provides larger grants to registered charities. The focus is on direct work to alleviate poverty and social exclusion, including help for young people aged 10-25. Direct work is defined as advice and advocacy; education and training; initiatives to combat racial harassment or crime.

For further information contact City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London, 6 Middle Street EC1A 7PH (tel. 020 7606 6145).

Training

SCCF Courses

There are still some free places on the following Southwark Children and Families Alliance/Southwark Community Care Forum courses for voluntary organisations working with children locally:

- **Children's Participation in Voluntary Organisations**, 24 February 2000 (trainers: Bharti Mepani and Maddy Lewis, Save the Children). This course aims to enable participants to increase their understanding of children's participation, enabling them to plan towards involving children in their organisations;

- **Introduction to the Children Act**, 31 March 2000 (trainer: Caroline Rushforth). The key principles of the Children Act and how they are currently applied in work with children and families.

Both courses are free. To book places please contact SCCF Training on 020 7252 5291.

Drugs Education

The Community Drug Education Project provides low-cost training on issues relating to drug use for residents and workers in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. Forthcoming courses include:

- Young people and drugs education (2 March);
- Women and drugs - children and drugs (8-9 March);
- Drugs and the black community (14 March);
- Talking to young people about drugs (23-24 March)

All courses take place at Chumleigh Gardens, Burgess Park, SE5 and cost £10 a day. For further information contact CDEP on 020 8691 0550 or e-mail training@cdep.demon.co.uk

Early Years and Childcare News

NOF Application

Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF have submitted a major consortium application to the New Opportunities Fund Out of School Childcare Programme. If successful, 1470 new childcare places will be created in after school clubs and summer holiday playschemes, provided by 31 organisations. The application has been developed by Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF with Southwark Council and with the full support and involvement of Southwark Childcare First, Southwark's Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

The outcome of the application will definitely be known by June 15th 2000, but it is hoped to get a positive response from NOF at an earlier date.

If you need advice on submitting a NOF Childcare application contact Emmanuella Ilomuanya, Southwark's Childcare Development Manager (tel. 020 7261 1933).

Southwark Childcare First Plan

Southwark Childcare First, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, has submitted its annual plan to the Department for Education and Employment. The Plan sets out proposals for developing the accessibility, affordability and quality of childcare for children aged 0-14 in 2000/2001. The key priorities are:

- increased provision and better access for hard to reach communities;
- increased provision and better access for children with special needs;
- a more pro active approach to recruitment in the childcare sector;
- further development of provision for after-school, wrap around care and childcare for 0-2s to address unmet need;
- increased take-up of the Working Families Childcare Tax Credit.

Specific targets include 265 new childcare places for under-3s (including 100 new childminder places) and 560 new out of school childcare places.

The next meeting of Southwark Childcare First takes place from 7.00 - 9.00 pm on Monday 20 March 2000 at the Education Resource Centre, Cator Street, SE15. Items for discussion will include childminding and Sure Start. Meetings are open to all those with an interest in childcare. For further information contact Sara Willis, Southwark Education, 020 7525 5240.

Health Action Zone Young Refugee Project

The HAZ Young Refugee Project is a partnership between Community Health South London NHS Trust, Save the Children, social services and education departments across the three boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham.

Over the next three years if aims to improve the health and well-being of refugee children by:

- employing link workers who will facilitate access to services;
- developing and implementing a common strategy across the key agencies (both voluntary and statutory) for all work concerning refugee children;
- organising joint training for staff focusing on meeting the needs of refugee children;
- providing clinical psychological support for both the young people and the professionals working with them;
- creating a website which will contain information on services available and how to access them;
- ensuring that services are not duplicated, by mapping what is available and learning from successful initiatives both locally and nationally.

Research is currently being undertaken in order to gather information already available and the views of the people the project will affect. The research will:

- collate information on the number of refugee children in the district;
- map the services that already exist in the three boroughs;
- consult with young refugees and their carers, co-ordinators of voluntary sector agencies and community groups;
- identify training needs of professionals;
- define the role of the link workers in consultation with professionals and young refugees;
- liase with lead professionals to share experiences and identify areas of good practice.

If you would like further information, please contact Rachael Gosling (020 7771 3319) or Dr Anthony Tam (020 7771 3348) or write to the Young Refugee Project c/o Child Health, St Giles Hospital, St Giles Road, SE5 7RN. There will also be a discussion with Rachael at the next Southwark Children and Families Alliance meeting on March 22 2000 (see box opposite).

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm,
Wednesday March 22nd 2000,
at Clubland, Walworth Road Methodist Centre,
54 Camberwell Rd, SE5

Working with Refugee Children:
A discussion with Rachael Gosling
(Young Refugee Project)

Crèche Closures
Consultation on plans by
Community Health South London to close crèches

Round up of Current Initiatives:
including Sure Start,
Early Years and Childcare Development Partnership,
Health Action Zone,
Area Child Protection Committee
& Children's Partnership Board

Funding Update:
latest news on funding opportunities for children's organisations, including new guidance from the New Opportunities Fund

Children in Southwark

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Children & Families Policy Officer: Neil Gordon-Orr
(please note change of name)

Bringing together voluntary organisations to promote the rights and interests of children in Southwark

NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD

Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF No. 17 - March 2000

LSL Health Action Zone - listening to children

70 children and young people aged 5 to 18 took part in the Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone's 'Having your say' event at the Oval Cricket Ground on 5 February 2000.

The aim of the event was to access children and young people's views about having their say in order to inform the review of children's participation being carried out by Barnardo's for the HAZ. Many of the children and young people had been involved previously in consultation and participation initiatives and the event provided an opportunity for them to talk about some of their experiences.

Younger children took part in creative arts workshops aiming to explore ideas and aspirations for creating a healthier environment in which to grow up. For example one group came up with the following:

"In Ruth Island there will be fruit: apples, grapes, bananas and chocolate! There will be no buses or cars. If you come to visit we can listen to each other and we can play pass the parcel. Once things were noisy and fumy but we changed it by having no cars, only bikes"

Older children and young people took part in workshops with exercises include designing an internet site, planning a health centre for young people and solving the problem of lack of disabled access at cinemas.

The event also featured music from Choice FM and a dance performance by students from Waverley Girls' School.

Many of the young people present expressed an interest in being involved in discussing and helping to make decisions about health issues in the future.

Barnardo's Review

The Barnardo's review of the participation of children and young people was commissioned by Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF on behalf of LSL HAZ. The Barnardo's team (Diana McNeish, Anna Downie, Tony Newman, Alison Webster and Jo Brading) used questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions to assess the current state of children's participation in LSL across the range of statutory and voluntary agencies.

A key finding was that there is a widespread acceptance of the principle of participation, with a recognition of the benefits both for agencies (including meeting the needs of users) and young people (including developing social and communication skills and self-esteem).

There is a great deal of activity around children's participation in LSL, much of it initiated fairly recently. The report identifies various examples of children's parliaments, youth forums, school councils and other structures as well as short-term projects and one-off consultation exercises.

More work needs to be done to demonstrate that participation is actually making a difference. There is scepticism amongst some young people expressed by one as 'they had a survey but nothing happened'.

The review did identify some examples where young people had exercised a real influence, such as a School Council which interviewed all candidates for the post of deputy head teacher, and a group of young people who had been in care participating in decisions about the design of a new children's home.

Many staff involved in developing children's participation are not aware of similar initiatives in other agencies or in neighbouring boroughs. The review recommends establishing a children and young people's participation forum for staff across the Health Action Zone to share experience.

The report concludes that 'no single approach is likely to be effective in increasing young people's participation' and that a strategy should be developed 'which takes a multi-faceted approach'.

If you would like a summary of the report, please contact Neil Gordon-Orr at Southwark Children and Families Alliance (contact details on back page).

Lost in Care: abuse in children's homes

Lost in Care, the report of the inquiry into the abuse of children in care in Clwyd and Gwynedd, was published on 15th February, the latest in a depressingly long list of similar inquiries. Although these areas of Wales are a long way from Southwark, the issues raised in Sir Ronald Waterhouse's report have implications for the care of children across the UK. Furthermore children from south London were placed in the areas under investigation, and police enquiries are continuing into other cases of child abuse in children's homes in Lambeth and Southwark during the 1970s and 1980s.

The report found that there was widespread sexual abuse of boys in children's residential establishments between 1974 and 1990, along with the use of excessive force in disciplining and restraining children.

None of the establishments where abuse occurred had complaints procedures and complaints by staff were strongly discouraged. Social Services had no coherent arrangements for the management and monitoring of children's homes, and councillors failed to discharge their parental responsibilities for children in care. Visits to homes by councillors and Social Services senior officers were grossly inadequate.

The report recommends that each local authority should have a Children's Complaints Officer, along with better complaints and whistleblowing procedures. The Government has accepted the recommendation for a Children's Rights Commissioner for Wales, although no similar move has yet been made for England.

The key lesson of Clwyd and elsewhere seems to be that vulnerable children in institutional settings will face abuse without focused and constant efforts to prevent it. Improving the care of children looked after by local authorities is a key element of the Government's Quality Protects programme, and we need to ensure that it remains high on the political agenda.

What's happening in Southwark?

- Four men have been charged with abusing children in the late 1970s at Southwark Council's Ivydale home (now closed). The charges are the result of a police investigation named Operation Holly. Former residents wanting to discuss concerns with police, or others with relevant information, should call the police child protection team on 020 7232 6356.

- Southwark Social Services will be using part of its Quality Protects Special Grant to commission an independent children's rights and advocacy service for looked after children in Southwark. It is also considering a joint initiative with Lambeth and Lewisham Social Services and LSL Health Authority to create a single arms-length Care Commission responsible for the registration and inspection of all children's homes in the three boroughs.

Children with disabilities and special needs

Leisure Review

National Contact a Family is carrying out a review of leisure provision for children and young people with disabilities and special needs in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham on behalf of the Health Action Zone. As well as producing an accessible guide to what is currently on offer, there will be a report with recommendations for what needs to be done to make leisure provision more accessible. For details contact Nick Wymer on 020 8480 7339.

Special Educational Needs: Independent Support for Parents

Southwark's Special Educational Needs Programme of Action emphasises the importance of parents and carers having access to Independent Support. Southwark Education has arranged a seminar for parents, carers and voluntary organisations to find out more about the role of Independent Parental Supporters and their relationship with the local education authority and schools.

The seminar will also consider support for parents and carers to resolve issues or to make an appeal to the SEN Tribunal and the implications of changes in legislation for admissions and exclusions.

Wednesday 29 March 2000,
9.30 am - 3.30 pm
Education Resource Centre,
Cator Street, SE15

To book a place for further information call 020 7525 2673.

Children's Participation Training

Children's participation in services is rapidly becoming a requirement of funders, as well as a policy and ethical imperative.

Children's Participation in Voluntary Organisations is a one day course arranged by Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF. It aims to enable participants to increase their understanding of children's participation, and to plan towards involving children in their organisations. The trainers are Bharti Mepani and Maddy Lewis from Save the Children Fund.

The course, for which there is no charge, takes place on Thursday 4 May 2000 at Peckham Pulse. To book a place please contact SCCF Training on 020 7252 5291.

Domestic Violence Mapping Exercise

Southwark Housing have commissioned a research team based at Royal Holloway, University of London, to undertake a study on the service provision currently available to women and children experiencing domestic violence. A questionnaire is being circulated to voluntary organisations to gather information on the services they provide. If you are providing a relevant service, but have not received a questionnaire please contact Sylvia Carter at the Royal Holloway (tel. 01784 414138, fax 01784 434375).

Sure Start

Sure Start Southwark - Aylesbury Plus is setting up a Parents' Development Working Group. The aim is to enable local parents to be fully involved in the development of the new programme of support for families of children aged 0-4 on the Aylesbury Estate and surrounding area. The Group will provide a forum where parents can learn about what's happening in Sure Start and to develop their own skills, knowledge and confidence.

The date of the first meeting is Wednesday 22 March, 6 pm - 8 pm, at Aylesbury Early Years Centre; Dawes Street, SE17 (crèche available). Dates for future meetings are Thursday 4 May; Thursday 1 June, Tuesday 4 July. Further details from Kate Miranda, Sure Start Director, tel. 0171 7713978, e-mail Kate.Miranda@chsltr.sthames.nhs.uk

New Funding for Supplementary Schools

The Schools Minister Jacqui Smith has announced new funding for community based supplementary schools. Speaking at a conference in Birmingham last month she announced: "We are targeting £1million at community based supplementary schools to help them in their work with minority ethnic youngsters who are at risk of under-achieving or being excluded by their mainstream schools. We know that many parents and organisations have set up their own schools to supplement their children's education in evenings or at weekends. Such efforts deserve our support".

"We will be setting up a new independent body, experienced in supporting community based education, to provide help and advice to supplementary schools and to help them raise funds. It will also administer a bursary scheme which will directly fund community based supplementary schools". Guidelines on the new funding are expected to be available shortly from the Department of Education and Employment.

Early Years and Childcare News

Southwark Childcare First

The next meeting of Southwark Childcare First, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, takes place on Monday 20 March, 7 pm - 9 pm, at the Education Resource Centre, Cator St, SE15.

Agenda items will include Sure Start and initiatives to recruit and support childminders. Southwark Childcare First meetings are open to the public, and all those with an interest are encouraged to come and join in the discussions. For further information contact Sara Willis, Southwark Education, 020 7525 5240.

Breakfast Clubs

Kellogg's are sponsoring a £650,000 Breakfast Clubs Award Scheme as well as a resource pack 'Breakfast Clubs: a how to guide' providing practical advice and guidance on setting up and sustaining a high quality breakfast club. For details call 0800 731 1895.

Crèche Closures

Community Health South London NHS Trust are consulting on proposals to close nine crèches for children with special needs in Southwark and Lewisham. In Southwark two facilities will be affected: the crèches at Aylesbury Health Centre (currently with 9 two-year-olds registered and 11 three-year-olds) and at Whaddon House (currently closed). Children attend the crèches for a minimum of two, a maximum of five sessions per week.

The proposals are being driven primarily by cost pressures which could leave the Trust looking to make up to £2.4 million of savings in 2000/2001.

Amongst voluntary organisations there is concern about any reduction in support to this group of children and their families, amongst whom there are already significant levels of unmet need. There are different views about how this support might best be offered. For instance it might be more appropriate for some children to receive a therapeutic input in an integrated childcare setting, such as a mainstream playgroup or nursery. However what is being proposed at present is not a redirection of resources to other forms of support but a withdrawal of funding.

Should closure go ahead it will need to be determined not only that alternative provision has been identified for all current service users but whether there are any particular categories of children likely to need the service in the future for whom alternative provision may not currently be available.

While it is true that there has been some expansion of early years childcare provision in recent years, there remain significant gaps particularly for children with special needs. In particular there is a shortage of places for children aged under 3, some of whom are catered for by the current crèche provision.

Whether or not the crèche model could be improved, or even replaced, health, education and social services have a responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient services to meet the needs of this group of children and families.

What do you think? Southwark Children and Families Alliance will be discussing this issue at our next meeting on March 22 2000.

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm,
Wednesday March 22nd 2000,
at Clubland, Walworth Road Methodist Centre,
54 Camberwell Rd, SE5

(from 1.45 pm we will be showing the video Square Fish about the experiences of young refugees, with tea and coffee available)

Working with Refugee Children
- Rachael Gosling (Young Refugee Project)

Crèche Closures Consultation

Round up of Current Initiatives:
including Sure Start,
Early Years and Childcare Development Partnership,
Health Action Zone,
Area Child Protection Committee
& Children's Partnership Board

Funding Update:
latest news on funding opportunities for children's organisations, including new guidance from the New Opportunities Fund

Children in Southwark

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Fax. 020 7703 7661
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website:
www.southwark-children.freeserve.co.uk

Children & Families Policy Officer: Neil Gordon-Orr

Bringing together voluntary organisations to promote the rights and interests of children in Southwark

NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD

Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF No. 18 - April 2000

N.Southwark Education Action Zone

In its first year of operation North Southwark Education Action Zone (EAZ) has begun to make progress towards its aim of raising educational standards. North Southwark was one of the first zones established by the Department for Education and Employment, and has been funded for a period of three years with a possibility of extension of a further two years.

The North Southwark EAZ consists of 15 schools (1 nursery school, 8 primary schools, 4 special schools and 2 secondary schools) in a part of the borough that has performed less well than elsewhere in Southwark. Its key objectives include:

1. extending early years provision;
2. improving literacy, numeracy, ICT and science;
3. improving skills for future employment;
4. working in a joined-up way between education, health and social services;
5. developing the contribution of parents and carers to their children's education;
6. attracting and supporting high quality staff.

A range of innovative projects have now been developed, with a number of voluntary, statutory and private sector organisations working in partnership with schools. Examples include the following:

Early years: Planned early years projects (linked to Kintore Way Nursery School and Whitstable Early Years Centre) include a bilingual support project to parents and young children whose first language is not English and a home-based learning service working with children aged 0-3 in the home.

Out of school activities: A zone-wide network of out-of-hours learning activities has been funded by the New Opportunities Fund. This will include study support in individual schools and specialist centre offering a range of purposeful activities outside of the school day. A school breakfast project has also been established.

Involving arts projects: The EAZ is making extensive use of the cultural resources of Southwark and the surrounding area. London Bubble Theatre have been developing a Storytelling and Literacy Project in nursery schools and reception classes. The National Theatre Storytelling Project is also working with three schools, giving children the opportunity to develop their imagination, their oral language skills and their ability to co-operate with classmates. Southwark Playhouse is running an Easter holiday schools called 'Puppets into Performance' for years 4,5,6. Art in the Park will be contributing to the out of hours programme of activities.

Support for black and ethnic minority ethnic pupils: Local voluntary organisation St Michael Associates have begun a pilot project at Charles Dickens School providing additional support to 30 Yoruba-speaking children, particularly in English and Maths. A Caribbean Volunteer Readers and Performers Project is also being developed.

Science Project: A science project is being established offering specialist support, after school science clubs, in-service training and off-site visits. Partners include Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, Shell UK and the Thames Explorer Trust.

Mentoring: South Bank University has already recruited more than 50 of its students to acts as a mentors for school pupils in the zone. The student mentors are trained to help school pupils become more successful in their studies, achieve higher grades and, where appropriate, to progress on to higher education.

Health and well-being: The Bloomfield Centre/South London & Maudsley NHS Trust have established the Kaleidoscope Project to develop school-based ways of working with troubled children and their parents. The Department of Health have funded a project based at North Southwark Primary Care Groups to develop links between primary care workers (GPs and nurses) and primary schools.

Involvement of parents: The 'Parents as Learners' Programme has included courses provided by the London Language and Literacy Unit on 'Helping my child to read and write', 'understanding nursery education' and 'working with bilingual children'. A parents as partners pack has been produced and provides information on how parents can help children improve their performance at school.

Delroy Peters is the Zone's new External Links Co-ordinator, responsible for developing the out-of-hours learning programme, parental involvement and links with the community. He can be contacted on 020 7497 7187 or email delroy.peters@lineone.net. *Further information is also available on the internet at* www.nsouthwarkeaz.org.uk

Funding News

Cicely Northcote Trust

The Cicely Northcote Trust is a registered charity which sponsors research and projects in South East London and is particularly concerned with those who are socially or economically disadvantaged and have social or health needs. Although locally based, the projects generally have national relevance and are capable of being continued by statutory or voluntary bodies.

A small annual income is available which is used to help finance suitable projects. Wherever possible, the Trust works in partnership with other statutory or voluntary organisations that provide additional sources of funding. Recently, the Trust produced a video - "Who cares for the carer?" which outlines the often unperceived and unmet needs of carers. The Trust has recently appointed a project manager, Anita Gee. Her role is to identify and aid the development of new projects. The Trust is currently particularly interested in work with refugees, the homeless and children with disabilities.

If you are interested in discussing a potential project, or obtaining a copy of the carers' video, then please contact Anita Gee at The Cicely Northcote Trust, Camelford House, 87- 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP (tel. 020 7582 9996, fax 020 7582 9606, e-mail cntrust@hotmail.com).

Environmental Education Funding

The Southwark Environmental Education Pack 2000 includes information on environmental funds, organisations and activities for schools and youth groups. The funding guide covers a wide range of local and national sources of funding for environmental work with children and young people. The pack has been produced by Southwark Council's Environmental Development and Education Unit (EDEU) - contact 020 7525 2193 or e-mail julie.tallentire@southwark.gov.uk

Holiday Playschemes

Southwark Council's Education and Leisure Committee has agreed to fund 44 voluntary organisations to provide holiday playschemes in summer 2000. Funding totalling £81,910 will provide approximately 2000 childcare places for 15 days (further information from Carol Dalton, 020 7525 1116). In addition Southwark Children and Families Alliance have submitted a bid to the New Opportunities Fund for funding to enable organisations to provide playschemes for a further 10-15 days. A decision is expected on this by early June.

Children's Participation

Involving Children with SEN in Decisions

An emphasis on involving and including children in decision making from an early age is to be introduced in the revised Code of Practice on Special Educational Needs due to be published this summer. Southwark Education held a half day seminar on 5 April to raise awareness of how children are being included and involved in SEN procedures.

Ola Odeymi, a young person with learning difficulties living in Southwark, gave a powerful presentation to parents and SEN Co-ordinators. Drawing on his own childhood experiences he stressed the importance of children being enabled to communicate their needs and make their own choices. Carol Moore gave a presentation based on Children in Scotland's 'Onwards and Upwards', a manual on involving young people with special educational needs.

There was enthusiasm at the meeting for further work in this area with ideas including training and support for SENCOs, parents and young people and a possible best practice pack.

Contact Frances Taylor, Parent Partnership Co-ordinator, Southwark Education (tel. 020 7525 2673, e-mail frances.taylor@southwark.gov.uk).

HIV

Neil Gordon-Orr (Southwark Children and Families Alliance) facilitated a workshop on children's participation at the HIV Forum on Children and Young People at the National Children's Bureau on 7 April. The findings of the recent LSL Health Action Zone review were used as the starting point for a discussion of the barriers to participation facing young people infected or affected by HIV, particularly the fear of discrimination arising from other people knowing about HIV in the family. A report of the Forum event will be available shortly (contact Neil for details, 020 7252 5859).

Listening to Parents

The Fifth Annual Special Educational Needs Conference for Parents and Carers takes place on Wednesday 14th June at the Education Resource Centre, Cator Street SE15.

This year the theme of the conference is 'Listening to Parents and Carers' with speakers and workshops focusing on help available, parents groups run by parents, and caring for the needs of the whole child in the family. Further details from Frances Taylor, 020 7525 2673.

Care Link

The Care Link Project works to promote the mental health of children looked after by Southwark Council (in residential or foster care).

In its first year the Care Link Team has provided a service to 60 children and young people, most of them between the ages of 8 and 15. As well as providing individual support to children, Care Link has been involving them in two exciting projects.

The Life Story Project involves young people using multimedia to record their life experiences, family trees and other personal information. Another group of children have been working on the Film Project, making a film about life in care. The film will be shown at the forthcoming Care Link Conference.

- ***Care Link Conference on the Mental Health Needs of Looked After Children,*** *Friday 12 May 2000, 9.30 - 3.30 pm at Etc venues, 6 Avonmouth Street, SE1 6NY. For details contact Jacqueline Reynolds, Project Administrator, Care Link, Social Services, 47b East Dulwich Road, SE22 9BZ (tel. 020 7525 4437, fax 020 7525 4449).*

Early Years and Childcare News

Southwark Childcare First

More than a hundred people attended the Launch of Southwark Childcare First - the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership at Peckham Pulse on 5 April. Speakers included Margaret Hodge MP, Minister for Employment & Equalities, Harriet Harman MP (Chair, Southwark Childcare First) and Caren Baynes, a local parent.

The event launched the new Southwark Childcare Information Service (CIS), offering information about any aspect of childcare for 0-14 year-olds (tel. 020 7525 5189). Southwark Childcare First have produced full colour postcards and posters to promote the CIS, as well as a new leaflet explaining the Childcare Tax Credit. For copies of these call 020 7525 5240.

At its Annual General Meeting on 10 April, Southwark Childcare First re-elected Harriet Harman MP and Neil Gordon-Orr (Southwark Children and Families Alliance) as its Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Men in the Nursery

DIY Dads and Lewisham Early Years have invited Peter Moss to do two presentations on his recently published research on the experience of male childcare workers. The research explores issues including how and why men enter the work, their relations with women workers and the risks to children of employing men. It also looks at how gender issues can become more visible within childcare and how we might achieve a more mixed gender workforce.

The talks will take place on Tue. 27th June at Clyde Nursery School, Rolt St, Deptford and on Tue. 11th July at Goldsmiths Community Centre, Castillian Rd, Downham. Both will run from 4.30 to 6.30 pm. There will be space for some Southwark workers to attend. Details from Trefor Lloyd at DIY Dads/Working with Men on 020 7732 9409.

Southwark Childcare First Jobs and Training Fair

24 May 2000, 11 am - 8 pm, Peckham Town Square SE15

Interested in working with children, 0-14 years old? Would you like to work flexible hours, need training? Then this major local event could be just what you are looking for to get started.

There will be at least 18 exhibitors, including training providers and employers. There will be workshops running throughout the day, a current vacancies job board, careers advisors and lone parent advisors. Interpreters will be available and there will be a play area.

If you are looking for a new career, just starting out, a woman returner, unemployed, already working with children but wanting to do more training, have a specialist skill, or would just like to find out more, then this is for you. Come along and take a look at the diversity of employment and training opportunities in working with children.

Contact 020 7525 5240 for more information

Health Action Zone

Healthy Communities Fund

Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone has made the first awards from its Healthy Communities Fund. Successful bids included:

- St Giles Trust: £59,989 to provide advocacy and support to young homeless people aged 16-25.;
- Child and Sound: £5000 towards its music therapy work with children with special needs;
- Samaritan Youth Project: £5000 to develop its work in local schools on mental health and suicide;
- Sicklenemia Parent and Carer Support Group: £5000 for this new self-help group for young people with sickle cell anaemia.

HAZ is keen to encourage more applications from voluntary organisations and community groups for activities to improve the health and well-being of children and young people, particularly for the small grants scheme (up to £5000). Application forms are available from HAZ Healthy Communities Fund, South East London Community Foundation (tel. 020 7582 5117).

HAZ: the next phase

The LSL Health Action Zone has been reviewing its progress to coincide with the end of its first year of implementation and the imminent departure of its director, Liz Sayce, to take up a new post with the national Disability Rights Commission. It is proposed that while the primary focus should remain on improving the health and well-being of children and young people there should be more of an emphasis on changing the ways agencies work together ('whole systems change') rather than developing more and more new projects.

Children and Families Alliance

The March meeting of Southwark Children and Families Alliance featured a discussion with Rachel Gosling of the Health Action Zone Young Refugee Project (020 7771 3319). Rachel is conducting research to inform the development of services for young refugees and asylum seekers across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. A report is due by the end of June, but a number of issues are already becoming apparent such as the long wait children can face for school places and the practice of placing 16 and 17 year olds in bed and breakfast accommodation with adults. Comfort Afolabi (Detainee Support and Help Unit, 020 7582 1990) raised concerns about the new powers of arrest granted to immigration officers and the negative impact on children of any increase in the numbers of people detained.

Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Thursday May 25th 2000,
at Walworth Road Methodist Centre,
54 Camberwell Rd, SE5

Teenage Pregnancy
What's happening in Southwark?

A Play Association for Southwark
-what support do playgrounds and after school clubs need?

Round up of Current Initiatives:
including Sure Start, Southwark Childcare First, Health Action Zone & Children's Partnership Board

Funding Update:
NOF Special Needs Bid, Healthy Communities Fund

Children in Southwark

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Bringing together voluntary organisations to promote the rights and interests of children in Southwark

NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD

Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF No. 19 - May 2000

Teenage Pregnancy in Southwark

Every year around 300 Southwark girls aged under 18 become pregnant. Southwark has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate in the country (after Lambeth), with around 85 conceptions per 1000 women aged 15-17 in 1995-97. This is equivalent to around 160% of national levels. The rates are similarly high for younger teenagers, with conception rates for 13-15 year olds at 15 per 1000, also 160% of national levels.

The UK in turn has the highest rate of teenage births in Western Europe: twice as high as in Germany, three times as high as in France and six times as high as in the Netherlands.

Locally, teenage pregnancy is concentrated in particular areas. For example, conception rates for 13-15 and 13-17 year olds in one ward in central Southwark are between 1.5 and 2 times the overall Southwark levels, and so at around 300% of national levels. Of the teenage pregnancies reported by schools (with around 50% underreporting), 70% were in 4 (of 14) secondary schools – with 25% in just one school. This may represent good reporting, and/or higher levels of pregnancies, in these schools.

A recent PCG level analysis suggested that local young teenagers are a little more likely to continue with their pregnancy than occurs nationally. With 65% of pregnancies to 11-15 year olds ending in abortion compared with 70% nationally, there are very high rates locally of teenage parenthood.

Teenage parents are more likely than their peers to live in poverty and unemployment and be trapped in it through lack of education and child care. The death rate for the babies of teenage mothers is 60 per cent higher than for babies of older mothers and they are more likely to have low birth weights, have childhood accidents and be admitted to hospital. High levels of unprotected sex also mean an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections: for example 50 cases of gonorrhoea were recorded in two central Southwark wards in 1998 – this very high number is certainly an underestimate of the problem: by at least 35%.

The national response

The Government's Social Exclusion Unit has published a report on teenage pregnancy that sets out two key aims:

- Reducing the rate of teenage conceptions, with the specific aim of halving the rate of conceptions among under 18s by 2010;
- Getting more teenage parents into education, training or employment, to reduce their risk of long term social exclusion.

Proposals include:

- **Better prevention** of the causes of teenage pregnancy, including better education in and out of school, access to contraception, and targeting of at-risk groups, with a new focus on reaching young men;
- **Better support** for pregnant teenagers and teenage parents, with a focus on returning to education with child care, working to a position where no under 18 lone parent is put in a lone tenancy, and pilots around the country providing intensive support for parents and children.

Local responses

A Southwark Teenage Pregnancy Working Group has now been established to co-ordinate the various initiatives relating to teenage pregnancy, develop a strategic framework and action plan and set local targets. The Working Group includes officers from health, social services, education, the youth service and the voluntary sector. It is hoped to recruit a Co-ordinator shortly.

South East London has been selected by the Department of Health as one of 20 Sure Start Plus Pilot Programme Areas. Funding of at least £2m a year is likely to be made available to support pregnant teenagers and teenage parents in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. Southwark Education has also secured funding for work to support teenage parents in school, and further funding is likely from other government sources.

Health Action Zone

The Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone pilot project to provide emergency contraception ('the morning after pill') via local community pharmacists is now operating. So far 22 pharmacists have undergone training to offer the service.

Continued on page two

Teenage Pregnancy (continued)

People who want to access the service can either phone NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or ask at their local pharmacy anywhere in LSL - both of these services will be able to give details of the nearest participating pharmacist and the opening hours of that pharmacy.

North Southwark PCG

North Southwark Primary Care Group and the Multi-Professional Audit Research Group (MARG) are holding an afternoon conference on Young People, Sex Education and Contraception Services in North Southwark. The aim of the conference is to collect professionals' views of best practice in sex education and contraception services to inform a wide ranging needs assessment study in North Southwark. The event takes place on Wednesday June 28th at Millwall Football Ground. For further information please contact MARG, tel. 020 7924 0371 (e-mail marg@kcl.ac.uk).

London Brook

London Brook (020 7701 5175) have a peer education project based at their centre in East Street. As part of the project a group of young parents in South London have produced a video about their experiences called 'Parent Youth'. Their views are seemingly at odds with much official discourse on the subject, challenging what they see as the stigmatising attitudes of politicians and the view that young women having babies is inherently problematic. While they acknowledge the difficulties they have faced, they are unanimous that having children has also been a positive experience for them. The video highlights what is often lacking in discussions about teenage pregnancy - the voices of young parents themselves.

Detailed statistics on teenage pregnancy in Southwark will be included in the next LSL Health Authority Sexual Health Bulletin, available from Caroline Mawer (0207 716 7000, e-mail caroline.mawer@shaw.lslha.sthames.nhs.uk).

Children's Participation

Southwark Students Conference

150 young people from 8 Southwark schools took place in the 'Southwark Millennium Students Conference: Charter of Rights and Responsibilities - Preparing for Citizenship' on 6 and 7 April 2000. The conference built on the work of the Education Welfare and Attendance Service (EWAS), Southwark Youth Service and the Schools Mediation Project and was organised in partnership with a steering group drawn from students who have been providing peer mediation in their own schools .

The conference at Dulwich College was facilitated by Caramba! Dance and Theatre Company who used a fictional example to spark discussion about the everyday experience of young people in Southwark schools. The students came up with proposals for inclusion in a Charter of Students Rights and Responsibilities in the context of Article 12 of the United Convention on the Rights of the Child, which deals with the child's right to freely express his or her views. Areas covered included the quality of teaching and learning, the physical learning environment, and punishment and rewards. The Charter will be launched later in the summer term and will be presented by delegates to participating schools with a view to stimulating dialogue about its implementation.

Participating schools included Archbishop Ramsay, Alwyn Secondary, Geoffrey Chaucer, Kingsdale, Sacred Heart, Walworth, Warwick Park and Waverley.

Further details from Laura Zauli, Southwark Youth Service (Area 3), 020 7639 8076.

Pupil Democracy in Europe

A new report provides striking evidence of the gulf between the UK and many of our European partners with regard to the status of children in schools. The 'Euridem Project - a review of pupil democracy in Europe' explored pupil involvement in decision-making in education in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Key findings included:

- in these countries there is a legal requirement to involve children in educational decision-making, including pupil representation on boards and committees locally, regionally and nationally;
- pupils are involved in the planning of the curriculum and teaching methods;
- school student unions are well-established and receive financial support from the government, local authorities and schools.

Positive outcomes of this culture of giving pupils a voice include more equitable and respectful teacher/child relationships and confident articulate children. The Project has come up with a number of action points for pupils, schools and local education authorities in the UK.

Copies of the Key Findings/Action Points papers are available from Neil Gordon-Orr at Southwark Children and Families Alliance. The full report is available from the Children's Rights Alliance, 319 City Road, EC1V 1LJ (tel. 020 7278 8222, e-mail info@crights.org.uk), price £9 plus £2 p&p

Southwark Family Support Project

Southwark Family Support Project is a new joint initiative between Social Services, Early Years Education and Health funded by the Government's Quality Protects Initiative. The Project is launching two new services this month.

Outreach Parenting Programme

The Outreach Parenting Programme will be offered to families of a child under eight where there are professional concerns regarding developmental issues, safety, neglect and emotional abuse. Families will be offered a twelve week programme, and receive from two to fifteen hours of support a week. Group work may also be offered using the Mellow Parenting Programme to address child parent dynamics. Referrals will be taken from health visitors and social workers.

Domestic Violence Drop-in

The Domestic Violence Drop-in provides advice and support for female victims of domestic violence, with a crèche facility, in the safe setting of an Early Years Centre. The drop-in will be held on Tuesdays at Ann Bernadt Early Years Centre, 29 Chandler Way, SE15 6DY and on Thursdays at Bishops House Early Years Centre, 5 Kennington Park Place, SE11 4AS (both will be open from 10 am to 4 pm).

The Southwark Family Support Project is divided into North and South Southwark with a project co-ordinator allocated to each area. For further information please call either Cathy Henchion (North Southwark) or Lucy Brown (South Southwark) on 020 7582 2124.

Welcomes and farewells

- Dr Roger Smith is Southwark's new Director of Education, taking over from Gordon Mott.

- Liz Sayce is leaving her post as Director of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone to take up a new position with the Disability Rights Commission. Kathryn McDermott, Director, Southwark Community Care Forum has been seconded to cover the HAZ Director post while a successor to Liz is recruited.

- Romi Bowen will be starting as the new Assistant Director (Children) at Southwark Social Services in June.

Early Years and Childcare News

Springboard Training

Springboard Southwark Trust is a Voluntary Sector training organisation and part of Community Service Volunteers. We are based on the Old Kent Road and provide Child Care training (Early Years Care and Education Award NVQ Levels 2 & 3) for young people aged 16 - 25 years old.

We operate a Modern Apprentice programme for 18 + and provided they can complete by their 25th birthday there is no charge to the candidate as this is funded through Focus TEC.

For further information contact Diana Hone, Care Team Leader on 020 7358 0690.

Southwark Play Association

London Play has appointed a consultant to explore the options for developing a Southwark Play Association to support voluntary sector after school clubs and adventure playgrounds. Amanda Brook-Chen is working with a local steering group drawn from Southwark Children and Families Alliance, Playlink, Play Training Project and Rockingham Estate Play Association. The aim is to develop proposals for what functions a Play Association might perform, how it might be structured, and where it might secure funding. If you have any comments about the support you need or how it might best be provided, contact Neil Gordon-Orr (tel. 020 7252 5859) or Amanda Brook-Chen (e-mail abrookchen@cwcom.net).

Southwark Childcare First Jobs and Training Fair

24 May 2000, 11 am - 8 pm,
Peckham Town Square SE15

Interested in working with children, 0-14 years old? Would you like to work flexible hours,? Need training? Then this major local event could be just what you are looking for to get started. There will be at least 18 exhibitors, including training providers and employers, plus workshops, a current vacancies job board, careers advisors and lone parent advisors. Interpreters will be available and there will be a play area.

Contact 020 7525 5240 for more information

Neighbourhood Renewal

The Government's Social Exclusion Unit has published its **National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal: a framework for consultation**. The aim of the Strategy is to arrest the wholesale decline of deprived neighbourhoods, to reverse it, and to prevent it from recurring. The report includes a number of proposals for improving services to children and young people including:

- increasing 'Schools Plus' activities to help raise attainment in disadvantaged schools. Proposals include ensuring pupils have at least three hours of study support per week; new Schools Plus Teams to support schools; better linkages with communities by employing local people as 'Community Learning Champions'; increasing the use of ethnic minority mentors and funding supplementary and mother tongue schools;

- increased support for families and young people, including services or referral points in places where they are easily accessible, for example, schools, health centres, family centres and in the workplace; promoting family/school partnerships; particular measures to reach ethnic minority parents, and increase their engagement with schools; and encouraging community and leisure activities that support young people's development and develop parenting skills.

Richard Sharp, the new Planning Officer (Health and Social Inclusion) at Southwark Social Services is developing a Southwark response to the National Strategy which will inform a Southwark Social Inclusion Strategy. Contact him on 020 7525 3236.

Copies of the consultation document are available free of charge from 020 7270 6315 or on the internet at www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seseu/Nat_Strat_Cons/summary.htm

Special Needs

● The Fifth Annual Special Educational Needs Conference for Parents and Carers takes place on Wednesday 14th June at the Education Resource Centre, Cator Street SE15. This year the theme of the conference is 'Listening to Parents and Carers' with speakers and workshops focusing on help available, parents groups run by parents, and caring for the needs of the whole child in the family. Further details from Frances Taylor, 020 7525 2673.

● Contact a Family Southwark are holding their annual general meeting on Tuesday 23 May, 11.00 - 2.00 at 54 Camberwell Road. The guest speaker will be Phillippa Russell of the Council for Disabled Children. Details from 020 7277 4436.

Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Thursday May 25th 2000, at Walworth Road Methodist Centre, 54 Camberwell Rd, SE5

Healthy Communities Fund - how to apply for funding
with Mubin Haq,
South East London Community Foundation

Teenage Pregnancy
what's happening in Southwark? Including Orchard Family Centre talking about their work.

A Play Association for Southwark
latest proposals on support to playgrounds and after school clubs

Best Value Review: Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

Round up of Current Initiatives:
including Sure Start, Southwark Childcare First, Health Action Zone
& Child & Adolescent Mental Health Strategy

Open to all voluntary organisations working with children and young people

Children in Southwark

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Bringing together voluntary organisations to promote the rights and interests of children in Southwark

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Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF No. 20 - June 2000

'Listening to Parents and Carers' Southwark Special Educational Needs Conference

Up to 150 parents and professionals attended the 5th Annual Southwark Special Educational Needs Conference on 14 June 2000. The theme of the conference was 'Listening to Parents and Carers', and parents had plenty to say.

The keynote speech was given by Tony Marchant, writer of the Channel 4 drama 'Kid in the Corner' about a child with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Tony has a son with Asperger's Syndrome and his account of his long and expensive struggle to get adequate support rang bells with local parents. Tony concluded that: 'parents are often other parents' best resources. They have no Town Hall agenda and they don't charge a fee'.

In a panel session, senior officers from education, health and social services faced questions from parents with a range of grievances and concerns.

Support in schools

Some parents complained that their children do not always receive the support they have been promised in schools - support that has been funded by the local education authority. There were concerns, for instance, about support assistants being used for other duties in schools. Graham Durham suggested that if any parent is unhappy about the support their child is receiving they should initially talk to the school's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator), and take it up with the head if this is not satisfactory. Beyond this each school has a named Governor with responsibility for SEN. If a parent is still unhappy having exhausted the school's own channels they can contact Tony Harty, Southwark's SEN Management Officer (020 7525 2748).

Although some parents feel that 'inclusion might be at the expense of a child's education', Graham reiterated Southwark's policy of moving towards the maximum integration of children with special needs in mainstream schools with achievements including the fact that Southwark is 'one of the few authorities in the country where educationally blind children are included in 100% of lessons within mainstream schools'.

Speech and language therapy

The shortage of therapeutic services for children was described as 'scandalous' by parents and panel members alike. As well as being under-resourced in Southwark, the national salaries for speech and language therapists are making it hard to recruit, especially in inner London where the cost of living is high. At present there are 8.5 unfilled vacancies for speech and language therapists locally, with significant delays in parents and children accessing services.

Breaks from caring

Parents of children with disabilities and special needs argued for the same opportunities as everybody else to work, study and socialise. For many this is impossible with insufficient respite care and out of school childcare (including holiday schemes).

Parents also called for closer co-ordination between agencies; as one put it: 'It seems that if you go to one specialist or another then you have to start all over again. There is no communication between specialists and no proper follow-up. Often you might receive up to 10 letters from different professionals'

There was some frustration amongst parents about the same issues being raised year after year with little apparent progress. There are some very good services in Southwark and significant new service developments, but the overall sense is of a system that lacks the resources to meet parents' and children's needs. Changing this requires more than the good will of council officers - it is ultimately a question of political will at a local and national level.

Without this parents and carers will continue to struggle to get the best for their children, negotiating their way through a maze of professionals and procedures.

A report of the conference will be available from Frances Taylor, Parent Partnership Co-ordinator, tel. 020 7525 5181.

Family Link at Capital Carers

Capital Carers are developing this new service in partnership with the Children with Disability Team at Southwark Social Services. The Family Link scheme aims to link disabled children (aged 4-10 years) with individuals/families who can provide them with a short break on a regular basis. To develop this service we are currently recruiting Link Carers.

Link Carers are ordinary people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds, with or without a partner, young and old, with or without children, from all walks of life, who live in all kinds of housing, who have:

- some child based experience;
- some time and space to care for a child with a disability;
- lots of energy, enthusiasm and understanding.

Link Carers are given full support, training and are paid an allowance. For more information on the service or on becoming a Link Carer, contact:

Chryseus Yamaguchi, Family Link at Capital Carers, St.Paul's Church, Lorrimore Square, London SE17 3QU (Tel: 020 7793 0966).

Contact a Family AGM

Contact a Family Southwark's Annual General Meeting (23 May) included a talk by Phillippa Russell, Director of the Council for Disabled Children and a member of the Disability Rights Commission. Phillippa outlined some of the changes on the horizon as a result of the Disability Discrimination Act, the Human Rights Act and other legislation.

She particularly highlighted the forthcoming Special Educational Needs Disability Rights Bill which will require local education authorities and schools to change policy, practices and procedures to make education more inclusive of children with disabilities and special educational needs. A new SEN Code of Practice will also be out for consultation in the autumn placing a greater emphasis on partnership with parents and listening to children.

Harry Marsh, the outgoing Director of National Contact a Family, praised the work of the local branch, which now has 235 families among its members. The support Contact a Family Southwark is able to offer families who care for children with special needs locally has increased with the appointment of Sue Price as the Sure Start Aylesbury Plus worker and Lucinda Dowson as the Health Action Zone family worker.

Contact a Family Southwark, tel. 020 7277 4436, e-mail southwark@cafamily.org.uk

On Track

On Track is a Government funded initiative. The objective is to support key policy areas such as the reduction of child poverty and social exclusion, improvements in education and reductions in young people involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The programme is focused on young children aged 4-12 and their families. Key objectives are:

- good home/school relations and parent involvement/support for education;
- early intervention and prevention for families and children at risk;
- a continuum of support across the age range;
- improved service delivery to at risk families;
- co-ordinated service provision between agencies.

In Southwark the project area is Consort and Friary Wards. Service delivery will be undertaken through the schools, community nurseries and early years centres. Services will be available to all children and families using these education establishments.

Services proposed include: home visiting; parent support and training; pre-school education; speech and language support; family/school partnerships; and support on secondary school transfer.

On Track Consultation Meeting
Thursday 13th July 2000, 10.00am to 12 noon
Peckham Settlement, Goldsmith Road

All voluntary organisations working with children and families in Consort and Friary Wards (as well as groups working with special needs and ethnic minority groups in the area) are invited to come along and find out how they can get involved. Issues will include community consultation and engagement, service outcomes and service delivery.

Contact: Susan Crisp, Southwark Council, tel. 020 7525 7316, e-mail Susan.Crisp@Southwark.gov.uk

Out of School Project

The Promoting Health with Young People Out of School Project has been developing a Rough Guide for young people out of school. A group of young people from Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham have identified the issues they feel are most important, including health and well-being, leisure and education. Having designed the publication they now want to consult with other young people on the draft.

If you would like the young people you are working with to have the opportunity to give us their valuable opinions on what should be changed and what has been left out, please contact Alison Robert on 020 7701 5175 to arrange a consultation meeting.

Training

Child Protection Training

Southwark Area Child Protection Committee provides free training courses which are open to voluntary organisations as well as to statutory colleagues. Courses for 2000/2001 include:

- Basic child protection awareness;
- Working together for the protection of the child (levels I and II);
- Race and cultural awareness in child protection;
- Recognition of child abuse and neglect;
- Supporting survivors of child sexual abuse;
- Managing child protection: an interagency approach;
- Parental mental health and child protection;
- Domestic violence - awareness and practice;
- Organised abuse.

All courses are held at Chumleigh Gardens. For a copy of the training programme call the ACPC Administrator on 020 7525 7965.

Southwark College

Child care courses at Southwark College in 2000/2001 include:

- Play and Children/Young People with Special Needs (PDA, Post Development Award);
- Certificate in Childminding;
- Working with Young Children (Introductory Certificate);
- Living with Young Children;
- Early Years Care and Education (NVQ Level 3);
- Nursery Nursing (NNEB Diploma);
- Child Care and Education (Advanced Diploma);
- Hospital Play (Specialist Certificate HPSET, Edexcel);
- Pre-School Practice (Certificate);
- Protecting Children;
- Initial Training for Classroom Assistants Certificate – Stage 1;
- Initial Training for Classroom Assistants Certificate – Stage 2;
- Advanced Baby Practitioner.

Southwark College has nurseries for the children of students at its Camberwell and Surrey Docks sites. Places are limited, but financial support to pay for a childminder is also available for some student parents.

For a copy of the course guide call the Information Hotline (020 7815 1600).

Early Years and Childcare News

New Opportunities Fund

A number of Southwark voluntary organisations were successful in the June round of the New Opportunities Fund Out of School Childcare Programme:

- **Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF** received £71,489 for our consortium bid. This will be used to create 20 before school places at Camberwell After School Project and new after school clubs at St Peters CE Primary School and Grove Vale Primary School (60 after school places and 60 holiday places at each school). We were unsuccessful in securing funding for a large number of holiday playschemes because NOF have changed their criteria on funding these, a matter which has been taken up with NOF by Harriet Harman MP.

- **Only Connect/Cambridge House and Talbot**: £28,000 to create a 8 place after-school club and a 20 place holiday playscheme, for children with special needs aged 5-16 years old.

- **El-Shaddai Supplementary School**: £25,000 to create 20 before-school places and 30 after-school places for children aged 5-16 years old.

- **Happy Faces Playgroup**: £35,091 to provide 21 before-school, 21 after-school and 21 holiday places for children aged 3-7 years old in Peckham.

- **Rainbow**: £24,050 to provide 18 before-school, 18 after-school and 18 holiday places for children aged 3-11 years old in Peckham.

- **St Michael's Associates**: £39,721 to create 40 after school places and 46 holiday playscheme places, for children aged 5-11 years. The school served will be Eveline Lowe Primary School.

If you are interesting in applying for NOF funding in future, support is available from Southwark's Childcare Development Manager, Emmanuella Ilomuanya, on 020 7525 1524.

Pré School Learning Alliance

Southwark Pre-School Learning Alliance are holding their annual general meeting on Thursday 13 July 2000 (10 am) at Sojourner Truth Community Centre, 161 Sumner Road, SE15 6JL. The guest speaker will be Harriet Harman MP, Chair of Southwark Childcare First. Details from Emma Marks on 020 7252 7929.

Children & Families Alliance May Meeting

20 voluntary organisations working with children and young people attended the Southwark Children and Families Alliance meeting on 25 May. Agenda items included the Healthy Communities Fund and Teenage Pregnancy.

Healthy Communities Fund

Mubin Haq, Grants Officer, South East London Community Foundation, talked about the Health Action Zone Healthy Communities Fund. So far, £200,000 has been allocated to local voluntary organisations and community groups for activities to improve the health and well-being of children and young people (aged up to 25) in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham.

The next deadline for the small grants scheme (up to £5000) is 5 August 2000. At present 1 in 2 applications to this fund are successful, although this will change as more applications are received. To be eligible for this organisations must have had an income of less than £30,000 in the last year.

There is also a larger grants scheme - up to £35,000 a year over three years - although a much lower proportion of these are likely to be funded. This is open to larger organisations with a proven track record in delivering services. The next deadline for this is 14 July 2000. Application forms are available from HAZ Healthy Communities Fund, South East London Community Foundation (tel. 020 7582 5117).

Teenage Pregnancy

After an overview of national and local initiatives on teenage pregnancy (summarised in the last issue of this newsletter), Nita Rogers from Orchard Family Centre (020 7252 9230) talked about some of their work, in particular a teen pre-parenting course they have been running with young people with special educational needs at Highshore School. Adam Shaw also introduced himself as the new young fathers worker at Newpin Fathers Centre (020 7740 8997). Issues arising from the discussion included:

- the need to consider issues of vulnerability and abuse;
- impact of specific learning disabilities (e.g. evidence from the US suggests that young people with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder might be more likely to become pregnant);
- the need to listen to the views of young parents and avoid stigmatisation;
- should we use the term 'teenage pregnancy'? Perhaps we should focus on 'school age pregnancy', which is a quite different issue from, say, a 19 year old starting a family.

Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Wednesday July 12th 2000, at Walworth Road Methodist Centre, 54 Camberwell Rd, SE5

Best Value for Children

Three major Best Value reviews are underway for children and young people's services in Southwark at present. The reviews are covering children with disabilities and special educational needs, the youth service and after school and play provision. This meeting will look at the implications of Best Value for the children's voluntary sector as well as reporting on the progress of the current reviews.

New framework for the assessment of children in need

Funding update
New Opportunities Fund, Nursery Education Grant

Round up of Current Initiatives:
including Sure Start, Southwark Childcare First, Health Action Zone

Open to all voluntary organisations working with children and young people

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